

**Idaho Fish and Game Commission
Special Meeting
January 24, 2008
Fish and Game Headquarters
Boise, Idaho**

A special meeting of the Idaho Fish and Game Commission was held by telephone conference. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Cameron Wheeler at 8:00 a.m. with Commissioners Barowsky, Power, Trevey, Budge, and McDermott participating.

Present in the Director's office were Director Groen; Dallas Burkhalter, Deputy Attorney General; Sharon Kiefer, Inter-Governmental Policy Coordinator; Mary Boyer, Executive Assistant; Jon Heggen, Enforcement Chief; Rachel Byington, Administrative Assistant.

LEGISLATION

Legislative Updates

Sharon Kiefer briefed the Commission on pending legislation. Commissioners were provided via email Legislative Analysis sheets (Appendix 41, Exhibit 16) for the call.

Legislative Bills

SB 1280 and SB 1281 - These bills would raise the fees for nonresident hound hunter permits [SB1280] and nonresident mountain lion tags [SB 1281]. The fee (excluding vendor fee) would increase from \$100 to \$140 for the hound hunter permit in SB 1280 and the fee would increase from \$150 to \$256.75 for the mountain lion tag in SB 1291.

08-16 Commissioner Power moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion TO MONITOR SB 1280 AND SB 1281. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

SB 1286 - This bill amends the provision in 36-411 that requires that anyone who is issued an archery permit (required for any controlled or general game season which has been specifically designated as an archery hunt) must demonstrate they have completed archery education or that they previously held valid archery permit in Idaho or another state.

This bill would require anyone participating in any hunt using archery to demonstrate they have completed archery education or held a valid archery permit in Idaho or another state. This is a much broader context than current statute.

08-17 Commissioner McDermott moved and Commissioner Barowsky seconded a motion TO MONITOR SB 1286. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

SB 1295 - The Director has the power to close an open season or reduce bag or possession limits pursuant to 36-106 (6)(A). This bill would add the authority to declare

a perpetual closed season for all hunting, fishing and trapping of all wildlife located on public lands surrounded by private lands for which no public access is provided. The Commission may conduct rulemaking to exempt specific lands from this closure.

08-18 Commissioner Barowsky moved and Commissioner Trevey seconded a motion TO MONITOR SB 1295. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

SB 1313 - This bill amends Title 25 to create a felony for import of domestic cervidae from outside of Idaho and creates a felony for shooting or spearing confined domestic cervidae if there is a fee or other remuneration. Currently, domestic cervidae importation is governed by rule, IDAPA 02.04.21 and pursuant to rule, domestic cervidae may enter the state of Idaho by permit with several provisions, including testing requirements for brucellosis, tuberculosis, and red deer genetic factor (there are exceptions for certain animals imported directly to slaughter). The testing requirement for red deer genetic factor is a new (2007) rule pursuant to domestic cervidae issues rose last year. There are also additional import requirements in this section of IDAPA. Current statutes or rules do not preclude shooting or spearing as methods of slaughter for domestic cervidae.

08-19 Commissioner Budge moved and Commissioner McDermott seconded a motion TO MONITOR SB 1313. The motion carried in a unanimous vote.

Additional Bill Discussion:

Sharon Kiefer reported on the following bills stating that the Department was not asking for policy positions on the following bills at this time this was to inform the Commission of the proposed legislation.

SB 1285 – Nonresident boat certification - Motorized boats to essentially be certified in Idaho before they can be used in Idaho. Currently there is a sixty day grace period. This bill would remove that grace period and have to have an Idaho registration certificate prior to operation of the vessel in the water to this state. Rationale those who benefit must pay.

SB 1312 - Legislation that amends a section of Idaho Code that provides for the selection of volunteers by agencies, departments, or units of State government. There was a similar bill last year that we opposed. Essentially directing that a Volunteer can not rejected for any other reason be except for criminal misconduct. We need the ability of measure of control of who we choose as volunteers.

SB 1275 - Substantially increases the penalties for mishandling of money by public employees. This sets criteria when it is a misdemeanor, when it is a felony and also sets up two different classes of public employees relative to violation penalties – Those who are charged with safeguarding money and those who are not. Defines new penalties for both groups of people also authorizes an employee terminated for cause. This bill includes misuse via P-Card transactions.

Other Legislative Discussion:

Director Groen and Enforcement Chief Jon Heggen briefed the Commission on the legislation that the Department has been working on in regards to ATVs. ATVs bill got the “yellow light” from DFM. Increase sticker price \$10.00 of which \$5.00 would go to Fish and Game and \$2.00 would go to Noxious Weed Control. What the Department found is that we were not in step with the Parks Board or the ATV user groups so we have put a hold on that bill.

MISCELLANEOUS

Adjournment

The Commission meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Cameron Wheeler
Chairman

Cal Groen
Secretary